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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3120  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3142  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5414  
RUEHK/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3007  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3658  
RHEHN/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3704  
RHMCSSU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000867

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, SCA/PPD, IIP, ECA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV SCUL KPAO TX

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: LOCAL MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH IN MOSCOW

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

¶2. (U) U.S. President Barak H. Obama delivered a speech at a graduation ceremony of New Economic School in Moscow on July 7. While there was no reaction by local Turkmen media or coverage of the event, people with access to Internet as well as Russian or international media may have been aware of the speech.

LOCAL AUDIENCE EXPOSURE TO POTUS SPEECH

¶3. (SBU) President Obama's visit to Russia was widely highlighted on Russian TV channels, available to Turkmen viewers via satellite. Post highlighted the transcript of Obama's speech on the home page of Post's website in English and Russian. The website enjoys an average weekly viewership of 700 people (English) and 159 (Russian). Post also distributed the text of Obama's remarks though Washington File to its subscribers. About 40 individuals, government institutions, and state media outlets receive these daily newsbriefs.

¶4. (SBU) COMMENT: Turkmenistan has no resources to calculate viewership statistics. It can be estimated that about 52 percent of Turkmenistan's population watch news stories on Russian TV channels as an alternative source to state media reporting. Based on rough calculations, it is possible that about 30 percent of the population was aware of the event and only 7 percent had access to the full text of Obama's remarks through English language television news channels and Internet resources. END COMMENT.

MILES